United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Appeal to international community for assistance in demining activities in Cambodia launched by Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, and President of Supreme National Council, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

+ Secretary-General travels to London on 24 August to co-chair Conference on former Yugoslavia; to go afterwards to Jakarta to attend non-aligned Summit meeting and to Moscow for official visit to Russian Federation.

+ General Committee recommends that General Assembly take up situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Assembly to consider recommendation in plenary Monday morning.

+ Humanitarian flights to Sarajevo continue as 27 aircraft carrying 287 tonnes of emergency relief supplies land at the airport in spite of "intense firing".

+ United Nations to hold sixth Conference on Standardization of Geographical Names at Headquarters on Tuesday, 25 August, through 3 September.

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An Appeal to the international community on assistance in demining activities in Cambodia has been launched by the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, and the President of the Supreme National Council, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.

According to a press communiqué issued yesterday, the last months of the implementation of the Paris Agreement of last October had "magnified the difficulties of the task ahead on the road to a lasting peace and to free and fair elections". One of these threats, the communiqué said, related to the "potent threat to life and limb" posed by mines and other unexploded ordnance devices.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) has carried out, in accordance with its mandate, training in mine clearance, mine marking and mine clearing activities. The communiqué said however that the magnitude of the task ahead required an expanded and sustained effort that could only be possible with the assistance of the international community.

The United Nations supervised elections in Cambodia are scheduled for spring 1993.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will leave New York on Monday, 24 August, for London where he will co-chair the International Conference on the former Yugoslavia organized jointly by the United Nations and the European Community.

Following the conference, he will travel to Jakarta on 30 August to attend the non-aligned Summit meeting, and then, on 3 September, to Moscow for an official visit to the Russian Federation. The Secretary-General is expected back in New York on 7 September.

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A new agenda item on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina was recommended this morning by the General Committee of the General Assembly for consideration by the Assembly's current session.

The request for consideration was contained in a letter from Turkey dated 19 August addressed to the Secretary-General. Addressing the General Committee, on behalf of the 47 members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Permanent Representative of Turkey, Mustafa Aksin, underlined that if the international community did not respond to the challenge confronting it in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it would be responsible for undermining the post-war edifice it had been constructing within the framework of the United Nations.

Those responsible for the crimes being committed had ignored every resolution of the Security Council, he continued. They had also ignored every call from international bodies. The people in the region were subjected to starvation and disease, as well as massive human rights violations in detention camps. The abhorrent practice of "ethnic cleansing" by the Serbs continued unabated.

The Assembly President, Samir S. Shihabi of Saudi Arabia, said the General Committee's recommendation would be considered in plenary on Monday morning, and should the Assembly decide to include the item in its agenda, it would proceed immediately to discuss it.

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A United Nations spokeswoman today said that humanitarian flights to Sarajevo continued yesterday when 27 aircraft carrying 287 tonnes of emergency relief supplies landed at the airport even as "intense firing" went on unabated.

The firing took place around the Tito barracks housing United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) personnel. The artillery fire had caused a great deal of damage to property, she said. However, no casualties were reported.

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Representatives from about 60 countries including representatives from several new members of the United Nations are expected to attend the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names taking place at the United Nations Headquarters from 25 August to 3 September.

The work of the United Nations in the area of toponymy began in 1959 when a group of geographers and cartographers from several countries suggested to the United Nations that world communications, and hence economic and social development, would benefit from an international standardization of geographical names. The first Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held in 1967 and subsequent conferences have since been held every five years.

Among the delegates expected to participate in the Conference are ambassadors and senior officials from national surveying and mapping institutions, as well as scientists and professors.

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